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COCOM Document

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CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEEEXPORT CONTROLS SUB-COMMITTEEAUSTRIAN STRATEGIC CONTROLSMemorandum by the United Kingdom Delegation

References:- COCOM Doc. Sub-C(59)2 (paragraphs 49-54)

At the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Export Controls held in May 1959, attention was given to the position of Austria in Strategic Control procedures, and to the effectiveness of her co-operation in both issuing and requesting Import Certificates and Delivery Verification Certificates in respect of trade in strategic goods. The Sub-Committee recommended that the whole question of Austrian co-operation should be re-examined at the next session. The experience of the United Kingdom Government in this field is set out hereunder:-

Austria as an importing country

2. Austrian co-operation in strategic controls has been mainly in connection with import certificates and delivery verifications. Import Certificates have been issued by the Austrian Government since March, 1952, and from June 1954 duplicate certificates have been furnished on a Government to Government basis. There has always been some doubt as to the total effectiveness of the arrangements in view of the possible issue of certificates to Soviet-controlled firms but there was a confidential understanding that if the Austrian authorities had any reason to believe there was a risk of diversion a warning would be given to the exporting country concerned.
3. The import certificates are issued by the Federal Ministry for Trade and Reconstruction, Vienna, and indicate that the Austrian firm intends to import the specified goods into Austria, and guarantee that the goods will neither be re-exported nor disposed of in any other manner without a special permit from the Ministry. It is not known in what circumstances such a permit would be given, nor the extent of control measures carried out by the Austrian authorities to guard against re-exports to the Soviet bloc. Import certificates are not issued in respect of "transit" trade.
4. In dealing with applications to export "embargo list" goods to Austria, the United Kingdom Government has made good use of the Austrian import certificates available, but having regard to the qualifications indicated above, has also required further information to check intended use in Austria where it was thought necessary. Delivery verification certificates are also called for in many cases. The United Kingdom authorities have no reason to think that the Austrian authorities carry out their documentation other than in a proper manner.
5. Some difficulties have arisen from time to time as the official duplicates of the import certificates are not always received at regular and frequent intervals, and traders allege delay in the issue of the documents.

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Austria as an exporting country

6. The United Kingdom Government has issued a number of import certificates in respect of imports from Austria; some delivery verifications have also been issued. The United Kingdom authorities are, however, not aware to what extent the Austrian authorities call for this documentation in respect of exports of strategic goods to the United Kingdom or other COCOM countries, nor what safeguards they adopt in dealing with such exports to non-COCOM countries; nor what exports they make to the Soviet bloc. The Austrian Government does not issue Transit Authorisation Certificates.

Austria as a transit country

7. In only a relatively few cases has Austria been named as a transit country. As Austrian import certificates are not available for such cases, appropriate end-use documents have been sought from the named destination country and in some instances, difficulties arise by reason of the desire to protect merchandising information. As Austria does not co-operate in the T.A.C. scheme or any form of transit control, great care needs to be exercised before cases of this nature are authorised.

8. Enquiries are at present being made by the United Kingdom authorities in respect of some goods for which evidence of delivery to the named destination has not been produced; if the enquiries show that a diversion has been arranged, a report of the circumstances will be made to the Co-ordinating Committee.

United Kingdom Delegation,
Paris.
February 9, 1960.

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